

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 4, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Warm, dry days gave way to a cold, wet weekend across Montana with highs ranging from the lower 70s to the upper 80s and lows from the upper teens to lower 40s. Great Falls recorded the largest accumulation of precipitation with 2.36 inches of moisture and most other areas of the state received measureable precipitation with notable exception of some of the drought-stricken areas of the northwest. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture levels improved slightly but remain behind the 5-year average and well behind last year's levels at this time. Corn harvest continues for both grain and silage with 25 percent of corn for grain and 89 percent of corn for silage harvested, which is ahead of the 5-year averages of 9 percent and 74 percent respectively. Sugarbeet harvest is ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 10 percent and 16 percent harvested respectively, with 22 percent harvested so far this year. Potato producers are steadily harvesting with 60 percent harvested, which is ahead of both last year's 39 percent and the 5-year average of 40 percent. Winter wheat seedings continue ahead of last year and ahead of the 5-year average with 86 percent seeded and 36 percent emerged. Pasture and range conditions held steady with the previous week with 20 percent rated good to excellent which remains behind last year's 53 percent and the 5-year average of 39 percent. Producers continue to move livestock off summer ranges ahead of normal with 49 percent of cattle and 62 percent of sheep moved compared with a 5-year average of 41 percent and 50 percent, respectively.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Corn				
Harvested for grain	25	13	17	9
Harvested for silage	89	68	87	74
Other hay				
Second cutting	95	93	91	94
Potatoes				
Harvested	60	35	39	40
Safflower				
Harvested	50	35	48	54
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	22	10	10	16
Winter wheat				
Planted	86	69	78	69
Emerged	36	12	23	20
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	49	43	39	41
Receiving supplemental feed	25	21	NA	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	62	54	51	50
Receiving supplemental feed	28	24	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	5.9	6.9	4.8	5.6
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	15	2	18
Short.....	30	35	13	25
Adequate.....	47	43	77	53
Surplus.....	7	7	8	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	15	15	2	17
Short.....	34	35	13	27
Adequate.....	42	41	78	53
Surplus.....	9	9	7	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	3	3	1	1
Poor.....	6	7	2	5
Fair.....	33	32	31	30
Good.....	45	44	52	47
Excellent.....	13	14	14	17
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	1	1	--	NA
Fair.....	26	19	5	NA
Good.....	48	55	73	NA
Excellent.....	25	25	22	NA
Pasture and Range				
Very poor.....	12	11	3	13
Poor.....	26	25	12	17
Fair.....	42	44	32	31
Good.....	18	18	41	32
Excellent.....	2	2	12	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	8	8	1	6
Fair.....	28	28	14	27
Good.....	48	48	42	47
Excellent.....	16	16	42	19

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_10042015.pdf